

SUGAR ANTS

FUNGUS FARMING ANTS

WEAVER ANTS

ARMY ANTS

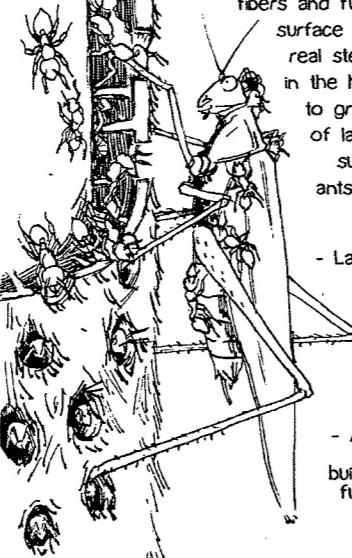
ANSI

SLAVE-MAKER ANTS

One of the more extraordinary behaviors exhibited by ants is the act of capturing slaves. Slave-making ants may either take over other ant colonies by killing their queen, or more commonly, they steal eggs and pupae from other nests to rear as their own. The resulting slave ant will tend to the master's colony as their own. Pretty awesome!

- Certain species of slave making ants like *Formica rufescens* cannot survive without slaves. While they are skilled at capturing slave ants, they do not know how to build nests, find food, or even eat. They rely on slave ants to tend the queen, to raise their young, and to feed them.

- Queens that take over new colonies use pheromones to safely infiltrate other colonies to find and kill their queen. Upon which will then use the dead queen's scents to take control of the colony.



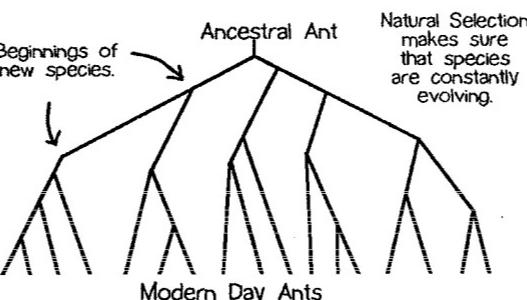
TRAP-SETTING ANTS

Some ant species have deviously clever methods of capturing prey. *Allomerus decemarticulatus* are known for using plant fibers and fungus to construct a false surface pitted with holes over the

Sur-face pitted with holes over the real stem of the plant. Ants hide in the holes with their jaws open to grip onto legs and antennae of large prey that land on the surface. This allows the tiny ants to take down prey much larger than they are.

- Large insects are stretched and held in place while workers sting them to death or until they are paralyzed. They can then cut it into pieces for easier transportation

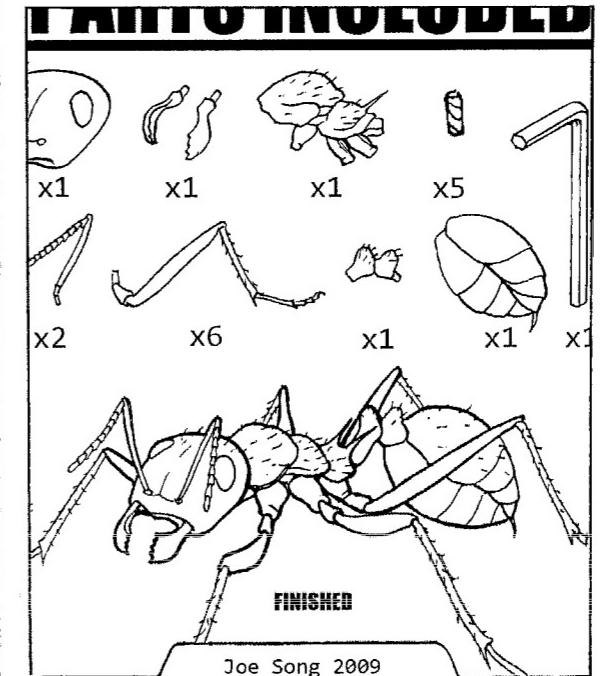
- Allomerus harvests fibers from the host plant and builds a frame in which live fungus is then used to fill in the surface.



Now, I know what you're thinking.
And yes, frankly, ants are just that awesome!

BUT... HOW?

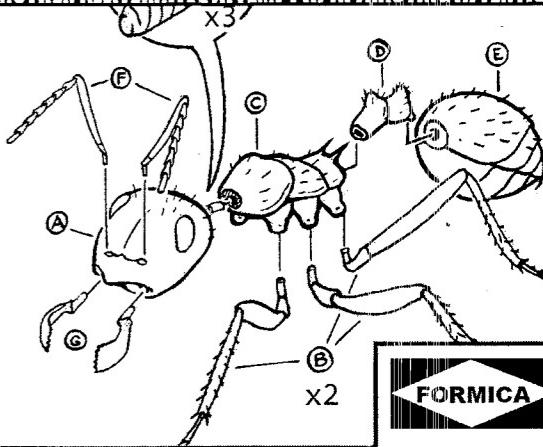
es, ants are completely awesome, but how is it they have developed such diverse and unique traits to survive? It's by a process called Divergent evolution. All of these incredible ants evolved from a common ancestor, and divergent evolution allowed different differences in their population to branch off and form their own groups. Eventually those offshoots develop their own behavior and traits, this is how different species are formed.



CROPA

AWESOME ATTRIBUTES ABOUT ANTS

MOTHER ALLITERATIVE ATTEMPT AT ATTRACTING ATTENTION



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